

Just yesterday the not-for-profit Chicago Crime Commission issued its "Gang Book," which found a growing trend of violent gang activity in the suburbs. Thirty-one of 81 Chicago suburbs surveyed by the Commission on gang activity reported increases in a variety of traditional crimes. In the 10th district, more than 3,000 gang members have been identified in Waukegan, the largest concentration in any of the Chicago suburbs. Suburban police departments are often unprepared to combat this kind of violence.

There is a need for the federal attention and support to help local police protect suburban families from this growing threat of gang violence. I have co-sponsored the Gang Elimination Act of 2006 with Rep. Dave Reichert from suburban Seattle to force the Justice Department to focus on the largest gangs that pose the greatest threat to law and order and to use the resources of the federal government to dismantle them.